

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Further reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 3 – 11 and 13 – 21 are presently active in this case. Claims 3, 13, 14, and 20 have been amended by the present amendment.

In the outstanding office action, claims 3, 7, 13, 14, and 20 were objected to; and claims 3-11 and 13-21 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. patent No. 5,287,292 to Kenny et al. in view of U.S. patent No. 4,602,872 to Emery et al. Applicant respectfully traverses the prior art rejection.

In response to the objections to the claims, Applicant has amended the claims as recommended by the office action with one exception. The one exception regards the objection to claim 7. Applicant submits that claim 7 is clear without making the suggested change. If the examiner disagrees, then he is invited to call the undersigned so that this matter can be resolved.

Claims 3 and 10 define an integrated circuit (IC) including a plurality of thermal sensors placed across the IC. Likewise, claims 14 and 20 define sensing temperature at a plurality of locations across an IC. As conceded in the official action, Kenny et al. merely teach a single thermal sensor and that the sensor is mounted near the circuit to be monitored. That is, the thermal sensor of Kenny et al. is not placed across or on the circuit to be monitored. By placing a plurality of sensors across the IC, the timing and accuracy of determining whether the IC is running hot is improved as compared to Kenny et al. which places the temperature sensor near the circuit being monitored.

Emery et al. do not remedy the deficiencies of Kenny et al. for a plurality of reasons. First, Emery et al. do not teach or suggest placing a plurality of thermal sensors across an IC. Second, the Emery et al. patent is from a non-analogous art as it is directed to monitoring the

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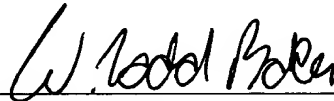
temperature of an electric generator. Electric generators do not present the same problems in temperature management as do ICs.

For the foregoing reasons, Kenny et al. are not believed to anticipate or render obvious the subject matter defined by claims 3-11 and 13-21 when considered alone or in combination with Emery et al..

Consequently, no further issues are believed to be outstanding, and the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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